



USER MANUAL

v.1.1

SoftColor Oy

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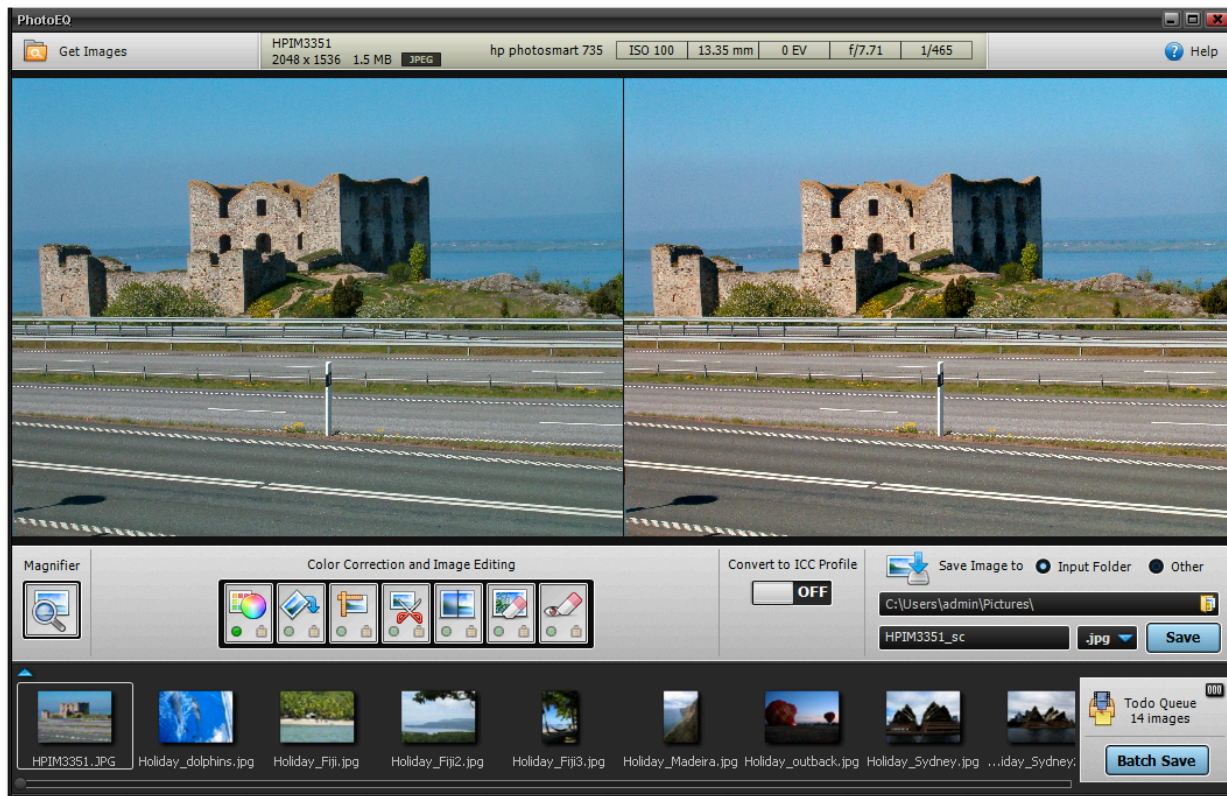
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Acknowledgments

License Agreement



SoftColor PhotoEQ Overview



SoftColor PhotoEQ makes color correction, image editing and color management tasks simpler. PhotoEQ can be used to process a single image file or for batch processing multiple image files and folders.

PhotoEQ has a lightweight single window graphical user interface. PhotoEQ uses non-destructive layer based processing for color and image adjustments. PhotoEQ's automatic color correction algorithm corrects white balance, exposure and contrast problems from original image in single step.

PhotoEQ reads multiple digital image and camera RAW-formats. PhotoEQ saves edited image to JPEG, TIFF, PNG, BMP and PSD formats. If PSD format is used PhotoEQ saves original and edited images into same file as separate layers.

PhotoEQ has full support for standard ICC-profile based color management and it supports embedded profiles. PhotoEQ manages embedded EXIF, IPTC and XMP meta-data.



Multiple formats

PhotoEQ can operate with multiple digital image and camera RAW formats. PhotoEQ handles conversions between image formats and color spaces. Embedded meta-data is transferred between input and output images if output image format has support for embedded metadata.



Color Correction

PhotoEQ's automatic color correction algorithm corrects color balance, exposure and contrast problems from original image in single step. White balance, exposure and contrast adjustments are processed as separate layers. This gives full control to fine tune automatic correction intensity and other color correction adjustments.



Image Editing

PhotoEQ has tools and filters for resizing, cropping, rotating, straightening, sharpening, de-noising and red-eye fixing the original image. Image editing in PhotoEQ is non-destructive and layer based operation. Image editing tools and filters can be used together with PhotoEQ's color correction or separately.



Color Management

PhotoEQ has support for standard ICC profile based color management and loading and saving embedded ICC profiles. PhotoEQ can convert and render between different color spaces, for example conversion from RGB to CMYK. PhotoEQ's has support for v4 and v2 profiles.



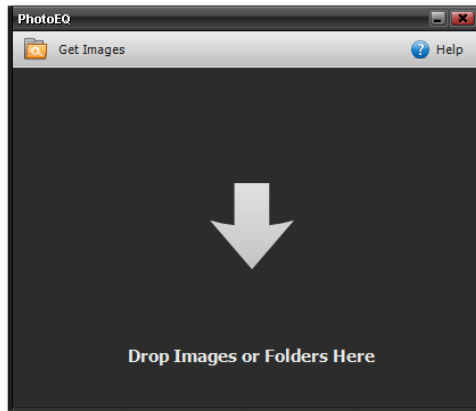
Batch Processing

PhotoEQ has todo queue for collecting multiple images to one by one processing or for automatic batch processing. After selecting suitable image processing adjustments and output settings for one image file, automatic batch processing will use same settings to process other images from todo queue.



How to Load Images to PhotoEQ Application

PhotoEQ reads multiple digital image and camera RAW-formats. You can open and process a single image file or add multiple image files and folders to PhotoEQ's todo queue to wait for processing.

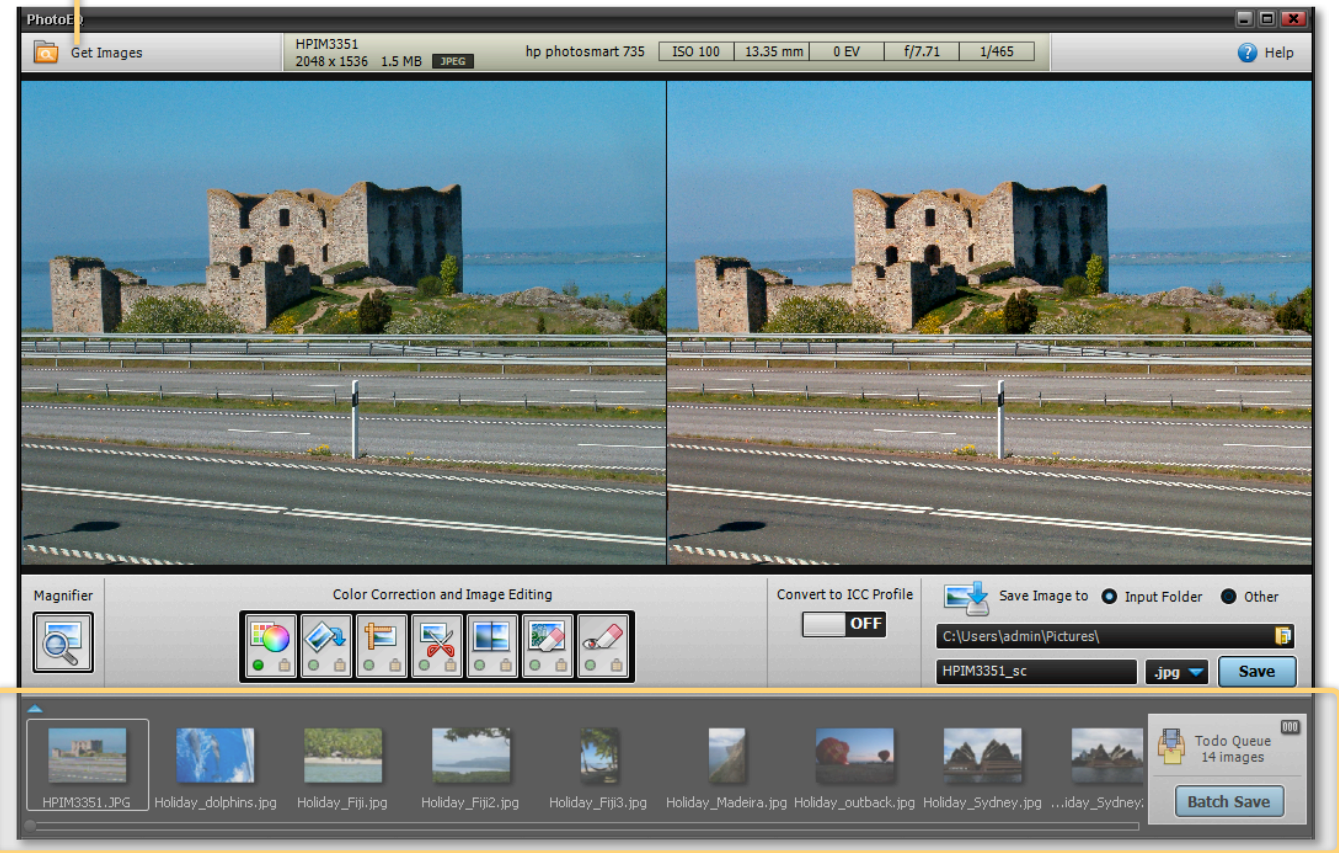


Todo Queue

If you load multiple files or folders, the first image will be loaded automatically and rest images are placed to todo queue. When you select image from todo queue, selected image is loaded to the application. You can batch process and save all files from todo queue by clicking “Batch Save” button. Saved and batch processed images are automatically removed from todo queue.

Loading image files is easy. You can just drag files or folders to the PhotoEQ application from Windows Explorer or from other applications.

You can also browse and load image files by clicking “Get Files” button. This will open you regular “Open Files” dialog for folder browsing and file selection.





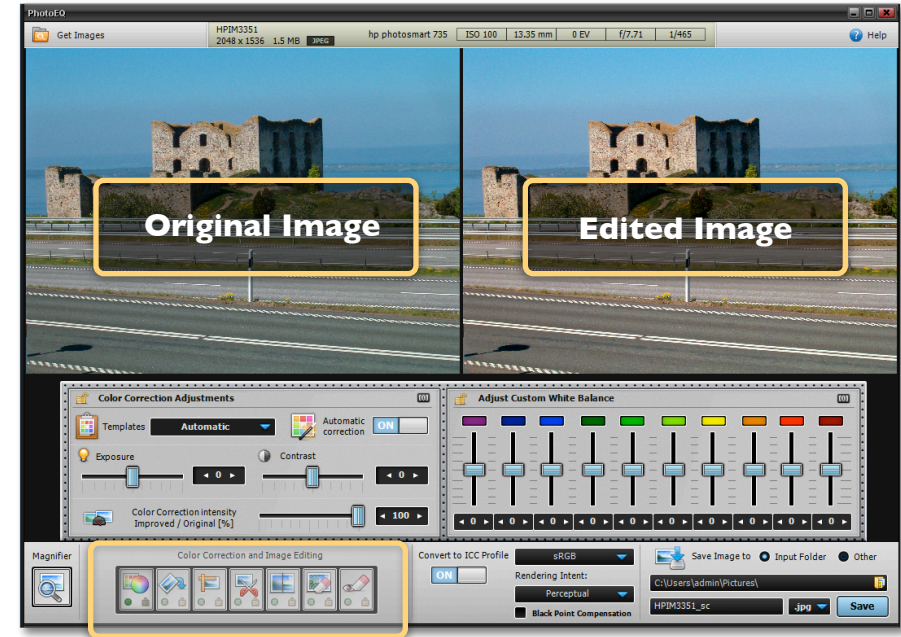
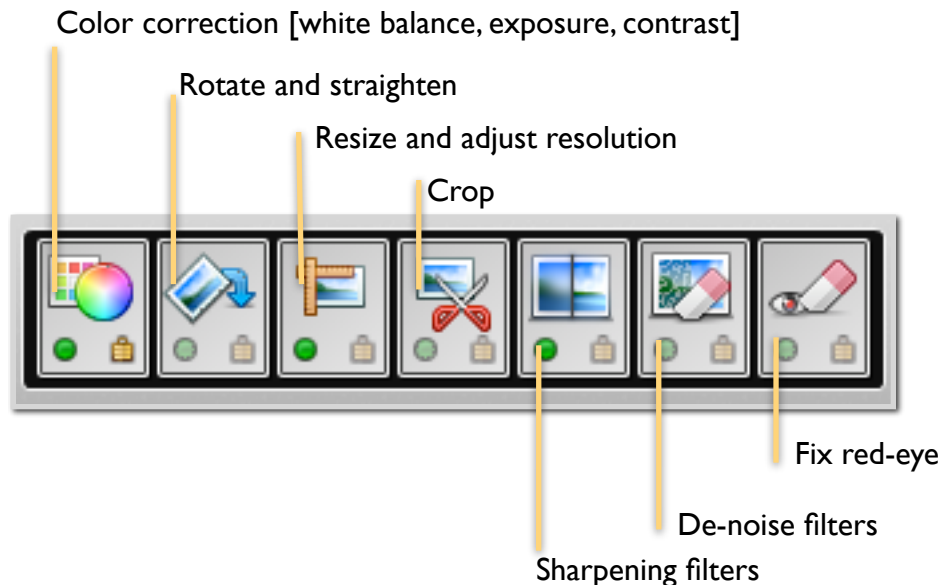
How to Process Images with PhotoEQ

You can do three type of image processing with PhotoEQ software:

- Color correction which adjust white balance, exposure and contrast settings automatically or manually.
- Image editing by resizing, cropping, rotating, straightening and red-eye fixing.
- Image enhancement by sharpening and de-noising filters.

PhotoEQ uses non-destructive layer-based image processing. All adjustments and changes are calculated in realtime from original image. You can lock current adjustments. Locked adjustments are automatically applied to the loaded image. PhotoEQ enables automatic color correction to the loaded image, by default. If you want, you can disable automatic color correction manually.

PhotoEQ's Tools



Special buttons

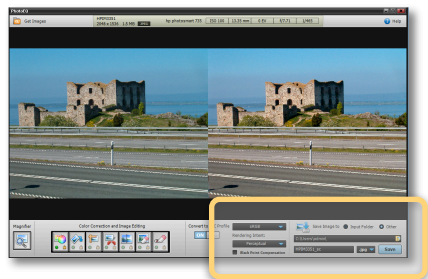
-  Reset current adjustments and load default or original values.
-  Lock current adjustments values. Locked values will be applied automatically to the new image.
-  Values are locked. Click to unlock adjustments values.

Indicators

-  Tool's adjustments are active and locked. Current adjustments will be applied automatically to the loaded image.
-  Tool's adjustments are not used and they are unlocked. Processing is not done automatically for new images.



How to Save Images



PhotoEQ can save processed files to JPEG, TIFF, PNG, BMP and PSD formats. PSD files are saved with two layers, original image and edited image inside the same output file. If you have enabled “Convert to ICC Profile” option then you can only save JPEG and TIFF files. When image is saved, it is removed from the todo queue.

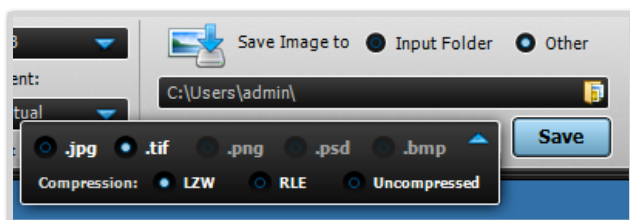
If “Input Folder” selected then PhotoEQ saves processed file to same folder as original.

If “Other” selected then PhotoEQ saves processed files to the selected folder.

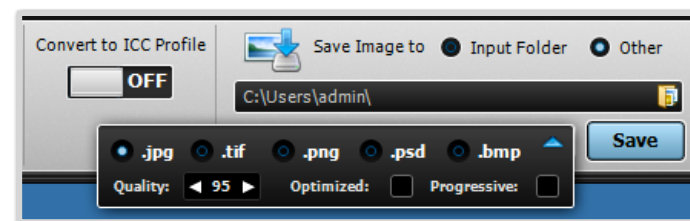
Set file name for saved file. PhotoEQ automatically adds _sc prefix to file name. You don’t need to add file extension to output filename. It will be added automatically.



Select the output format. You can also change JPEG quality and TIFF compression settings. Selected JPEG and TIFF settings are saved automatically.



“Convert to ICC Profile” option enabled.

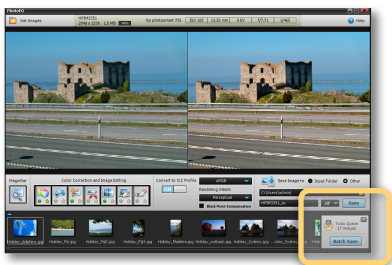


“Convert to ICC Profile” option disabled.

PhotoEQ saves image files to following formats: JPEG, TIFF, PNG, PSD, BMP. PSD files are saved with two layers [Original Image / Improved Image]
Supported JPEG color spaces: RGB, GrayScale, YCbCr, CMYK, YCbCrK. Supported TIFF types: Packbits, JPEG, LZW, CCITT G.3 and G.4, ZIP) with RGB, CMYK, B/W, CIELab

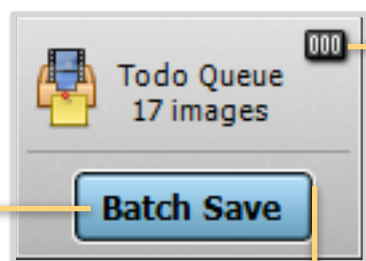


Batch Process and Save All Images from Todo Queue



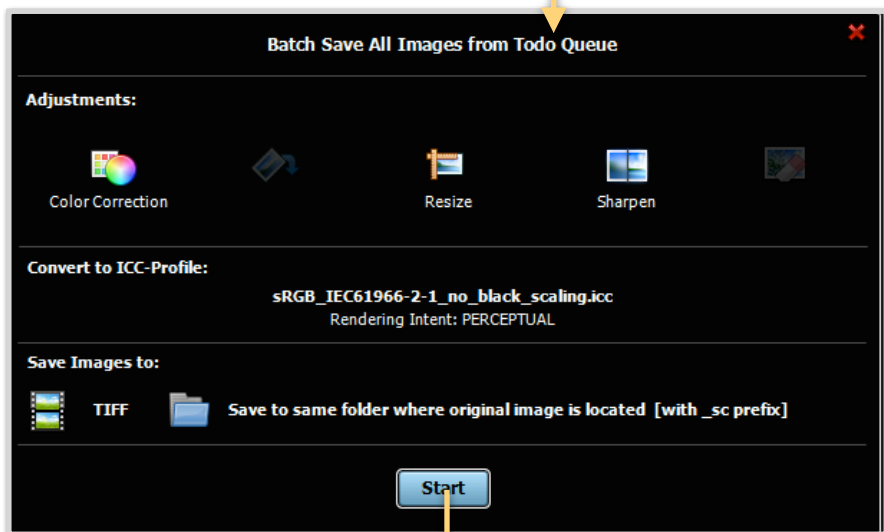
If you open multiple image files or folders, PhotoEQ places these images to todo queue. You can batch process all files from todo queue by clicking “Batch Save” button. Batch save operation uses currently selected image processing adjustments. Batch processed images are saved by using currently selected output format and folder settings. Saved files are named with _sc prefix. Batch saved images are removed from todo queue after processing.

Batch process and save all files from the todo queue.



Remove all files from the todo queue.

You can check selected settings before starting batch processing.



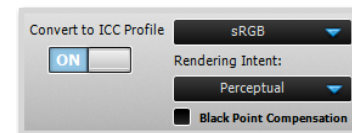
Start processing.

How to Batch Process Images from Todo Queue

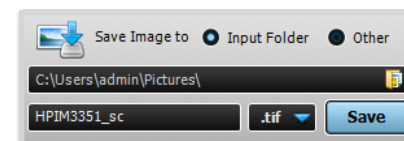
1. Use currently loaded image to set image processing adjustments.



2. Enable or disable “Convert to ICC Profile” settings



3. Select output format and folder for batch save.



4. Click “Batch Save” button and check settings from the batch save window. Then click “Start” button to start processing.





Color Correction Adjustments - White Balance, Exposure and Contrast

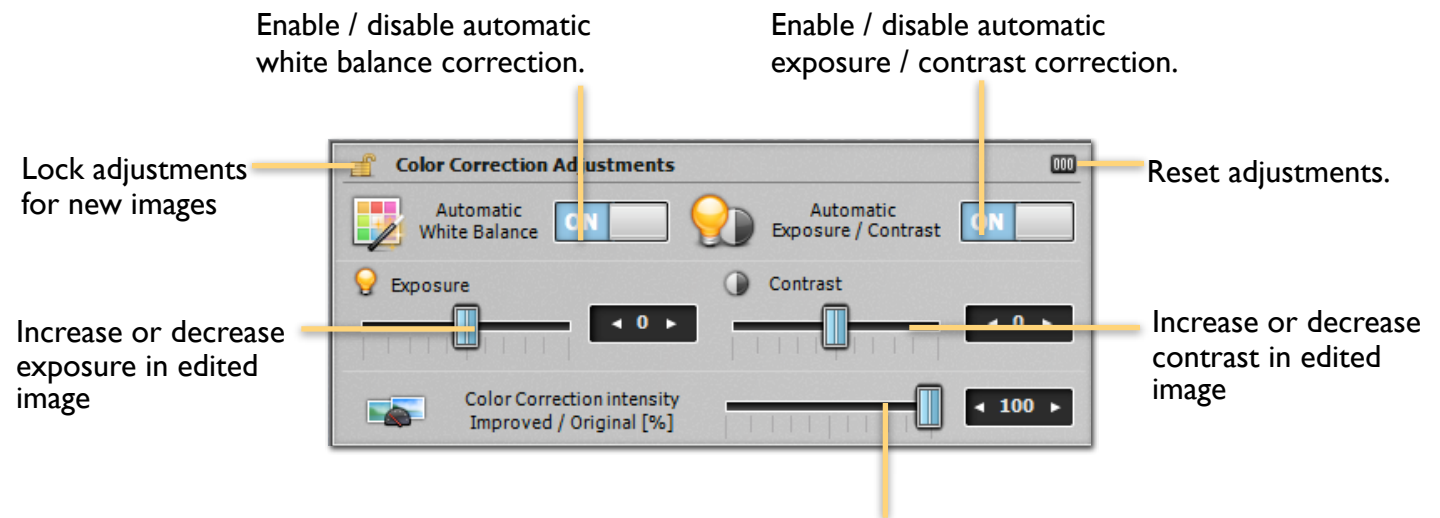
Automatic Color Correction

Automatic color correction fixes color balance, exposure and contrast problems automatically in single step. Automatic color correction uses separate layers for white balance, exposure and contrast adjustments. Layer based solution gives you a freedom to tune all color correction adjustments as you want.

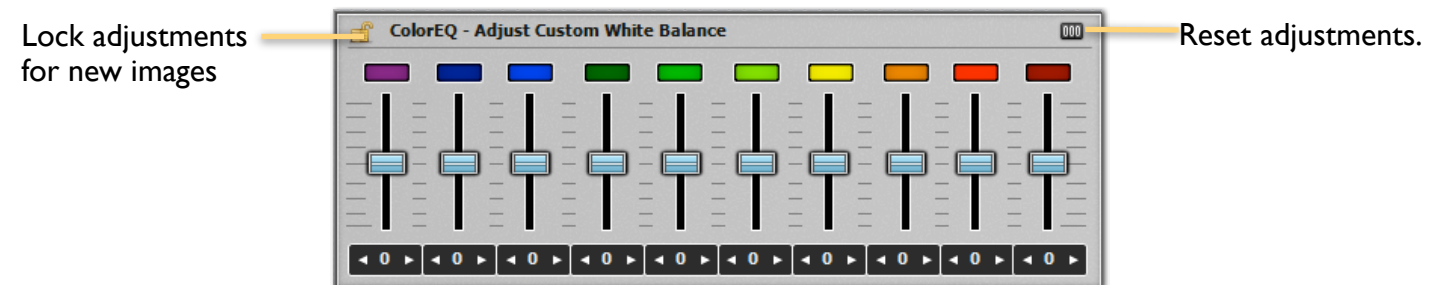
Automatic color correction is enabled by default for new images. You can disable this feature by switching off “Automatic White Balance” / “Automatic Exposure / Contrast” and then locking “Color Correction Adjustments”. If you disable automatic corrections you can still adjust white balance, exposure, contrast and correction intensity settings manually.

How to Tune Automatic Color Correction

If you are not satisfied with PhotoEQ’s automatic color correction results you can easily tune results by adjusting “Color Correction Intensity” value 0-100%. This value adjusts how much pixel color values of color corrected image are mixed with original image. You can also increase or decrease exposure and contrast values for automatic correction. If you want to change white balance you can use ColorEQ tool.



Adjust color correction intensity. This intensity value adjusts how much pixel color values of color corrected image are mixed with original image. Color correction intensity is the easiest way to tune automatic color correction results.

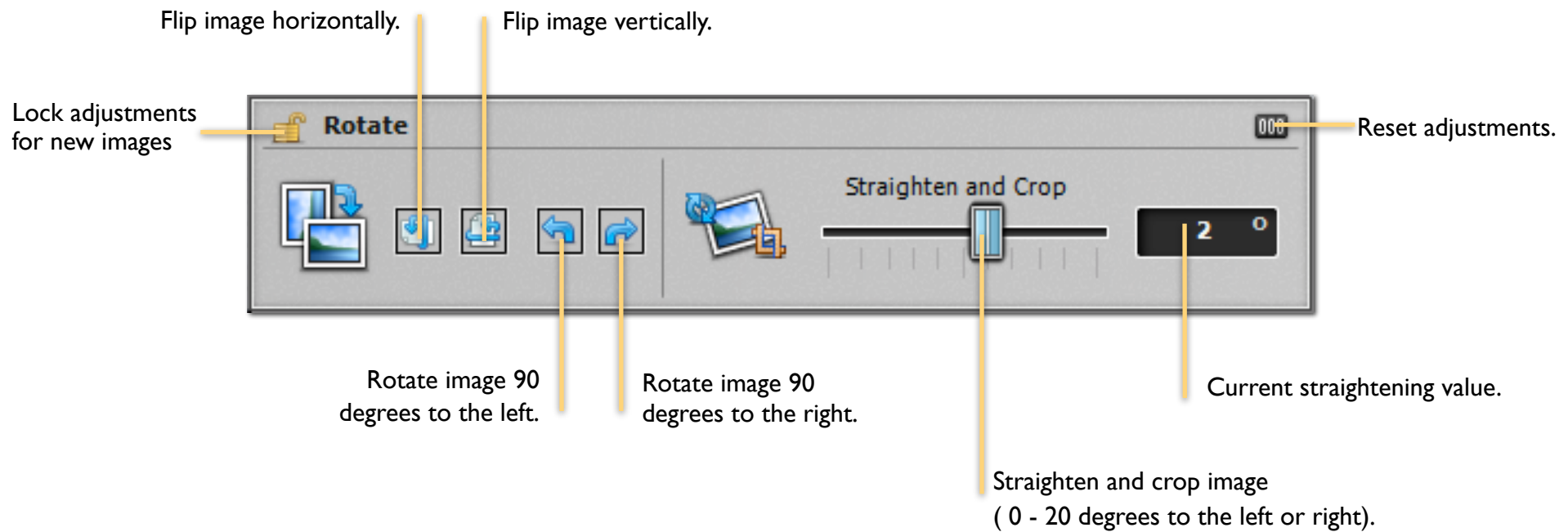


Use ColorEQ’s sliders to adjust current white balance of edited image. You can increase or decrease certain color tones by adjusting ColorEQ’s sliders.



Rotate and Straighten Adjustments

With PhotoEQ's Rotate tools you can rotate, flip and mirror edited image. You can also fix image's horizontal orientation by using "Straighten and Crop" adjustment. Use of rotate tool also changes image inside original image view.





Resize and Adjust Resolution

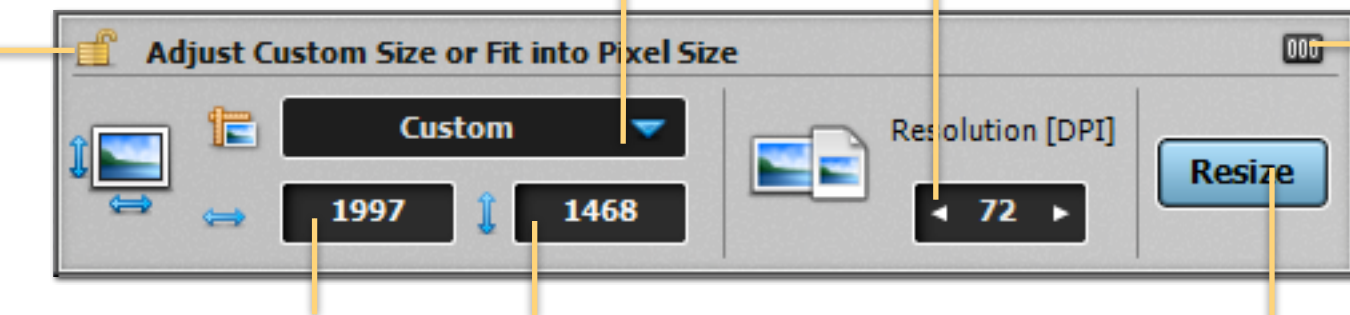
With PhotoEQ's resize tool you can resize images and adjust dots per inch (DPI) resolution. If you changes images resolution new resolution is updated to output image metadata. Resize tool retain aspect ratio automatically while resizing. Image inside original image view is also resized.

Select typical pixel dimensions for edited image. New pixel width and height values are calculated to fit current image to the selected pixel dimensions.

Set image's DPI-resolution. New pixel dimension are calculated automatically.

Lock adjustments for new images

Reset adjustments to the original width, height and DPI values.



Image's pixel width.

Image's pixel height.

Resize image to the selected pixel size.



Crop

How to Crop Image

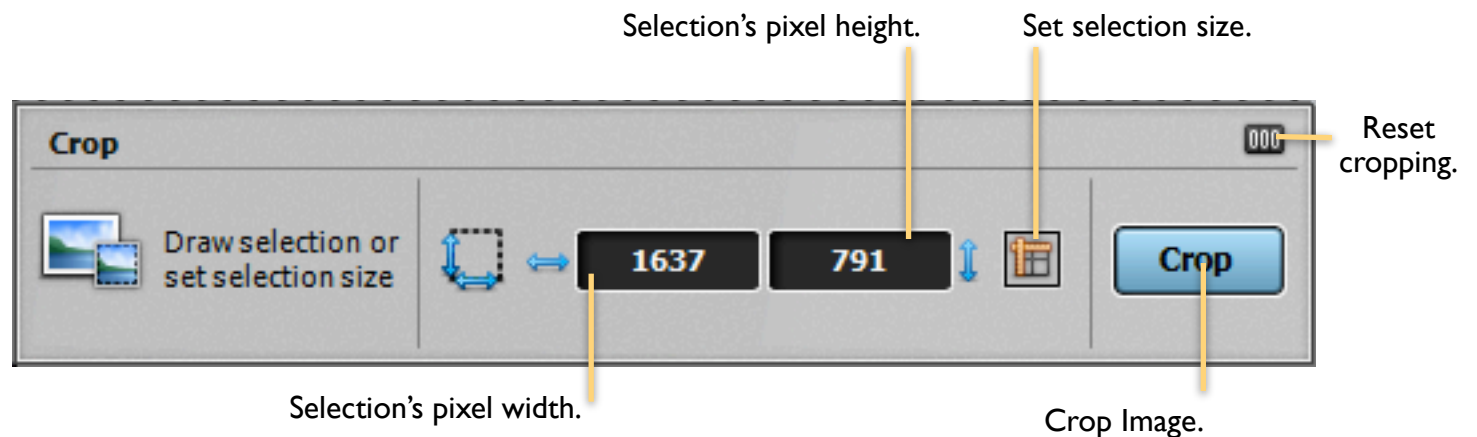
1. Draw selection to edited image view or set selection size from crop panel. You can also move and change selection inside edited image view.

2. Click “Crop” button to crop image.

When cropping is done the cropped area outside selection will be removed from image. Image’s new pixel size is selections size. Image inside original image view is also cropped.



Change selection size.

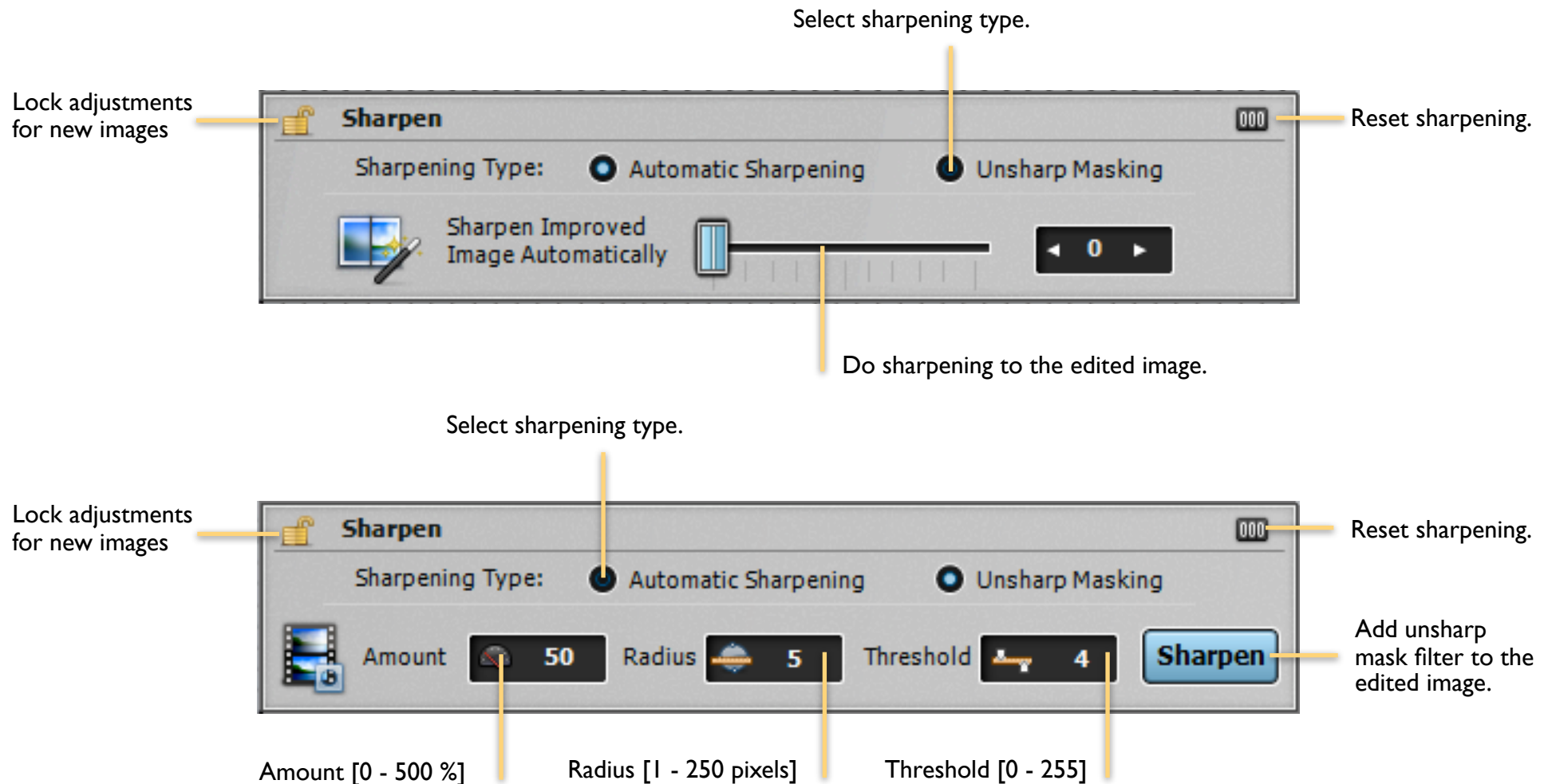




Sharpening - Automatic or Unsharp Masking

PhotoEQ's sharpening tool has two methods to adjust sharpness of the edited image:

- Automatic sharpening filter which enhances image by increasing the sharpness of detected objects contours.
- Traditional unsharp masking filter which increases the contrast of the edges between pixels of different colors in an image.





De-Noise

With PhotoEQ you can use automatic noise removing filter or blur filter to remove unwanted noise from edited image. Blur filter performs gaussian blur filtering.

Lock adjustments
for new images



Reset de-noise
adjustments.

Adjust noise removing filter to the edited image.

Adjust blur filter to the edited image.

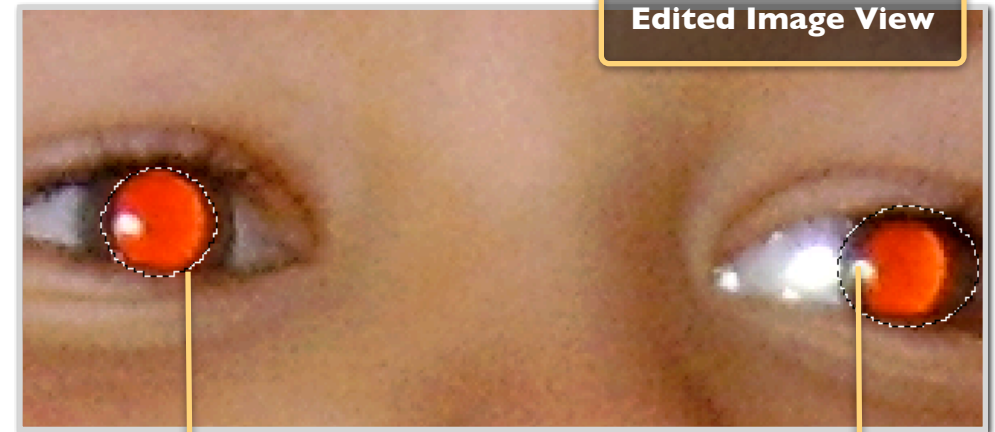


Fix Red-Eye

You can use PhotoEQ's fix red-eye tool to reduce red tint in human pupils.

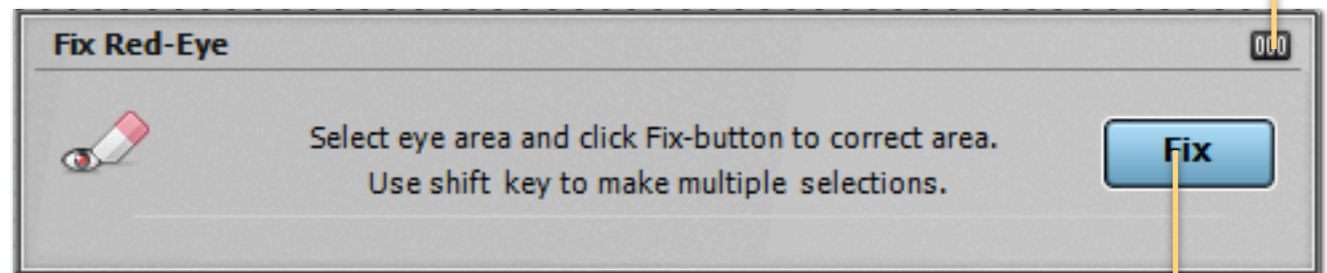
How to Fix Red-Eyes

1. Draw selection edited image view. Click center of pupil and drag mouse to set selection size. You can draw multiple selection if you press shift key while drawing.
2. Click "Fix" button to set red-eye fix to selected areas.



Selected areas which will be red-eye fixed.

Reset all fixed red-eye areas from edited image.



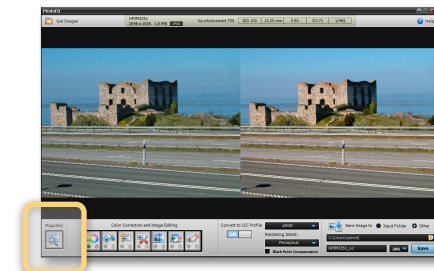
Do red-eye fixing to selected areas.



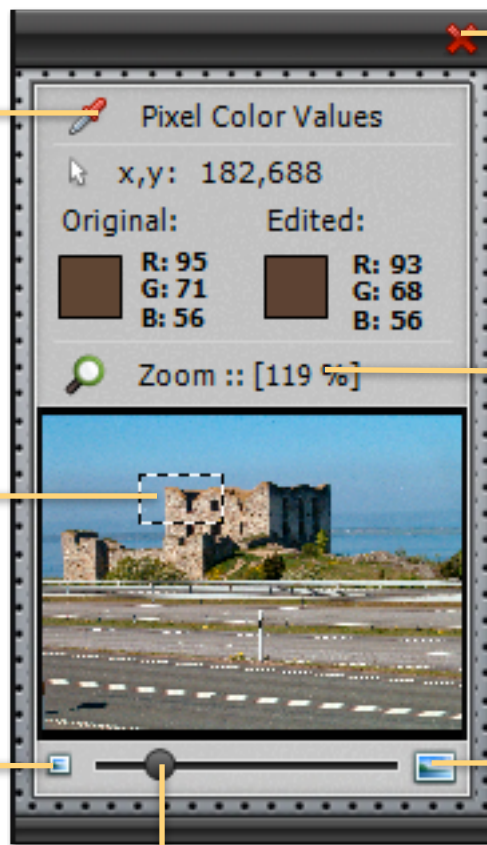
Magnifier - Zoom Image Views & Color Picker



With PhotoEQ's magnifier tool you can zoom and navigate image views. You can use magnifier's color picker tool to check and compare RGB-values of pixels from original and edited images.



Shows actual pixel position and RGB-values of original and edited images. If mouse cursor is over image views.



Close magnifier window.

Current zoom-level of image views.

Navigator. Move area which is visible on original and edited image views.

Set image views zoom to fit images to current window size.

Set 100% zoom value to image views. [1:1]

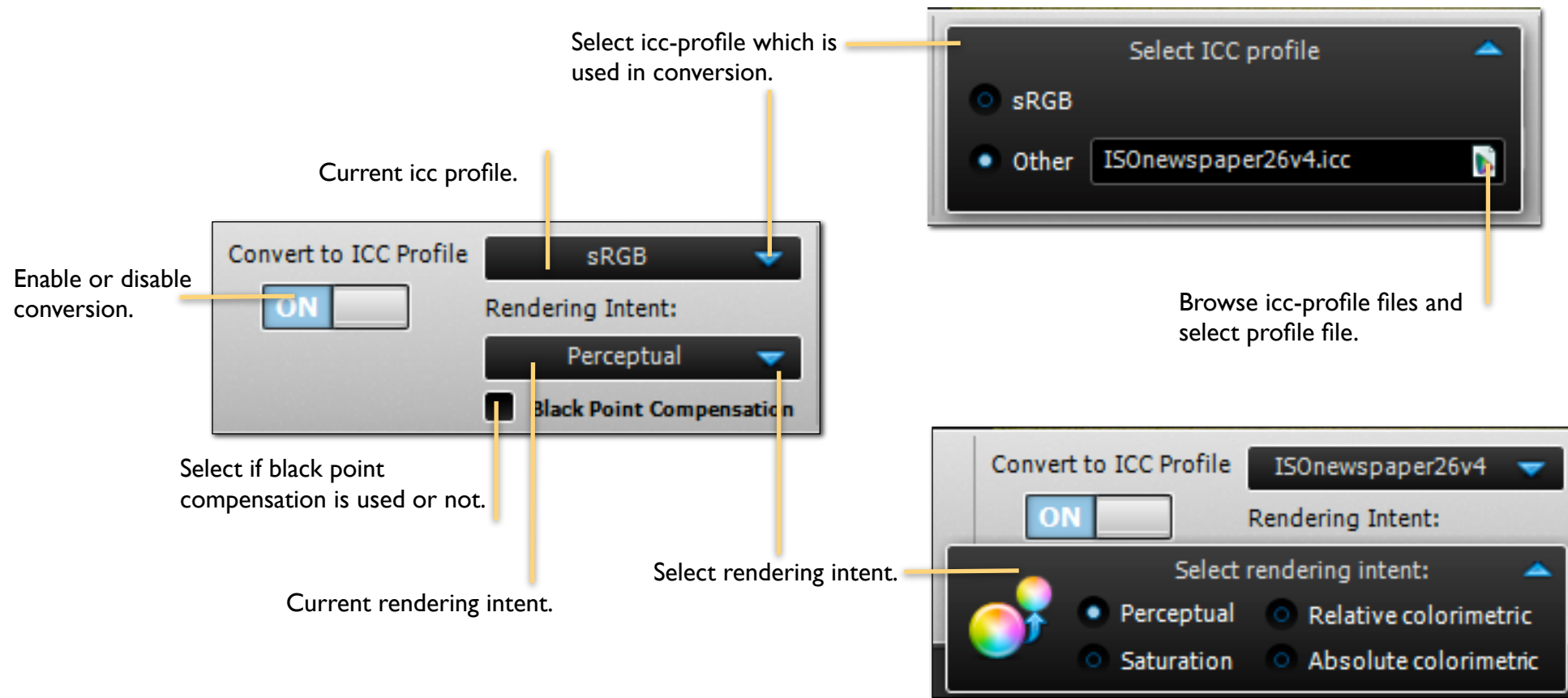
Set view zoom values [1-500%]



Color Management - Convert Saved Image to Selected ICC-profile

With “Convert to ICC Profile” tool you can select icc-profile which defines target color space for saved images. You can also set rendering intent method which is used during conversion and usage of black point compensation. Selected icc-profile is embedded to the saved image. If you are not using icc-profile conversion original image’s icc-profile is embedded to the saved image.

PhotoEQ reads automatically original image’s embedded profile and uses it while images are presented on the display.





Keyboard Shortcuts

Load & Save Images

Alt+ →	Load next image from todo queue
Alt+ ←	Load previous image from todo queue
Ctrl+S	Save current image

Rotate Image

Ctrl+R	Rotate image 90 degrees right
Ctrl+L	Rotate image 90 degrees left

Show & Hide Tool Panels

Ctrl+1	Show color correction tools
Ctrl+2	Show rotate tools
Ctrl+3	Show resize tools
Ctrl+4	Show crop tools
Ctrl+5	Show sharpening tools
Ctrl+6	Show de-noise tools
Ctrl+7	Show fix red-eye tools
Esc	Hide currently visible tools

Hide & Show Todo Queue

Alt+ ↓	Hide Todo queue
Alt+ ↑	Show todo queue

Zoom Image Views

Ctrl+0	Set view zoom-value to 100% [1:1]
Ctrl+Shift+0	Fit images to view size
Ctrl+O	Zoom out image views
Ctrl+I	Zoom in image views

Scroll Image Views

Shift+ ↑	Scroll image views up
Shift+ ↓	Scroll image views down
Shift+ →	Scroll image views right
Shift+ ←	Scroll image views left

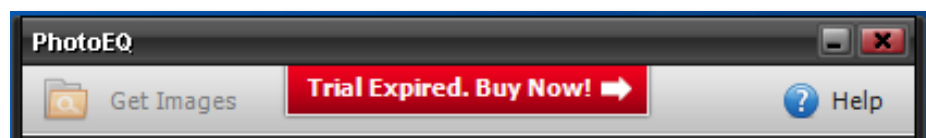


Registering PhotoEQ Trial Version

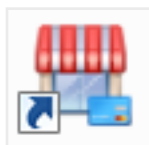
After installing PhotoEQ starts in 10 days fully working trial mode. After 10 days trial PhotoEQ software will be locked and “Register SoftColor PhotoEQ” window is shown when you start the application. To continue working with PhotoEQ software you need to buy a license key.

You can activate PhotoEQ trial version by buying license and registering your copy. License can be purchased from our online store and it will be delivered immediately via email as soon as your payment is completed.

You can register you PhotoEQ by clicking “Buy Now” badge

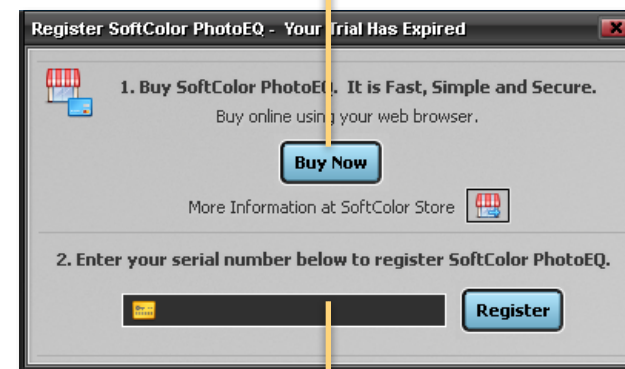


or you can start “PhotoEQ Registration” application from Start menu.



How to Buy a License and Register PhotoEQ

You can easily buy license code online by clicking “Buy Now” button. Our secure store page will open to your default web browser.



The best way to add your serial number is to simply copy it from your e-mail and paste it into the serial number section. After adding serial number just click “Register” button to register your copy.

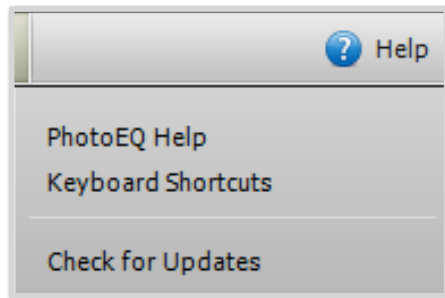
After registering with valid serial number this message is shown.



This window is also shown when if you have already registered your copy and you have started “PhotoEQ Registration” from Start menu.

SoftColor PhotoEQ includes a tool for automatic software updates. You can download and install latest version of software automatically with “PhotoEQ Software Updates” tool.

You can start software update from Help-menu.

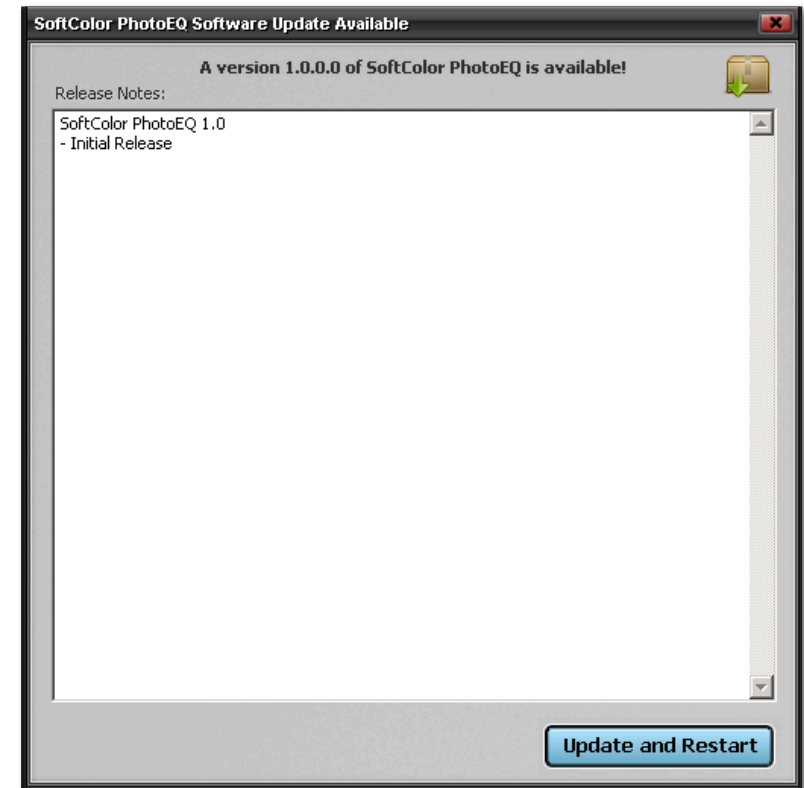


or you can start it from Start Menu - “PhotoEQ Software Updates” icon



In Windows Vista and Windows 7 software update activates UAC-controls. You will need to have administrator rights to update PhotoEQ software with automatic software update tool.

If there is new version available, release notes are shown. You can start update process by clicking “Update and Restart “ button. Software update tool will restart PhotoEQ application automatically.



Acknowledgments

SoftColor PhotoEQ software utilize the following copyrighted material, the use of which is hereby acknowledged.

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Tango Desktop Icons
The color palette is public domain.The icon theme is also available as public domain since the 0.8.90 release.
http://tango.freedesktop.org/Tango_Icon_Library

JEDI Visual Component Library
Mozilla public license
<http://jvcl.delphi-jedi.org/>

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SoftColor Toolbox installer is built using Inno Setup free installer for MS Windows.
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Portions Copyright (C) 2000-2010 Martijn Laan.All rights reserved

<http://www.jrsoftware.org/isinfo.php>
<http://www.jrsoftware.org/files/is/license.txt>

DCRAW
dcrw.c -- Dave Coffin's raw photo decoder. Copyright 1997-2010 by Dave Coffin. Compiled without GPL code
<http://cybercom.net/~dcoffin/dcrw/>

JPEG
<http://www.iijg.org/>
This software is based in part on the work of the Independent JPEG Group

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JPEG2000
<http://www.ece.uvic.ca/~mdadams/jasper/>
This software is based in part on JasPer library
Copyright (c) 1999-2000, Image Power, Inc. and the University of British - Columbia, Canada.
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Thank you for using SoftColor PhotoEQ!

Soft@Color